

leagues, but has been due entirely to the policy or foundation laid by my hon. friends when they were in power prior to 1896. We have heard that from the Minister of Trade and Commerce during nearly every budget debate in which he has participated since 1896 when he had the honour of a seat in this House and I have no doubt that to some extent he believes in the truth of it. I shall not quarrel with him or any hon. member opposite as to the cause of the enormous development which has taken place in Canada in the last 18 years, but it is certain the development has been enormous, and if my hon. friends opposite during their term of office, whether it be lengthy or otherwise, can continue the ratio of progress which existed from 1896 down to the present time, they certainly will not have lived and governed in vain.

My hon. friend says that the whole discussion during the late elections was upon the economical side of the trade question submitted to the people by the government.

Mr. FOSTER. Not quite as broad as that.

Mr. CARVELL. I want to be correct, and I will say it was nearly all along those lines.

Mr. FOSTER. As far as I was concerned.

Mr. CARVELL. I have no doubt that the Minister of Trade and Commerce is too astute a politician to go through the country occupying the high position that he does, and talking nothing but the economical phase of the reciprocity proposition. But, Sir, my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce does not represent the whole Conservative party in all the back townships. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce may not have been present in some of the back townships and have listened to the impassioned appeals which his supporters and friends made on every question almost in the world except the question of reciprocity with the United States in natural products. I know I am voicing the experience of all the members on this side of the House who represent English-speaking constituencies when I say that practically the last thing that was used to influence votes in our constituencies was reciprocity or what the result of reciprocity would be. I state here that practically the only thing which was used for the purpose of affecting votes was the race and religion of the hon. gentleman who led the government of this country down to September 21. I realize that there are hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House who will deny that; I realize that newspapers will take up the statement I make and deny it, but nevertheless I repeat it and declare that in the English-speaking portions of the maritime

Mr. CARVELL.

provinces and in the province of Ontario, practically the only thing which we had to fight was the money which reciprocity furnished—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. CARVELL. —the money which reciprocity furnished and the contemptible cry of race, creed and religion which was waged against the right hon. gentleman who now leads the opposition. So far as New Brunswick is concerned, I have personal knowledge of this because I met it on the platform, I met it in public and I met it one hundred times in private to every once I met it in public, and I say that so far as the English-speaking portions of New Brunswick were concerned, practically the whole campaign was waged on this contemptible cry. We see from the newspaper reports, we hear from our friends in Ontario, we hear from almost every source—not only that we have the proud boast of 'The Orange Sentinel' three days after the election that it was their work which won the election for the Conservative party and placed them in power. I have here a clipping just placed in my hands by a friend containing a statement made by a Methodist clergyman at a meeting held in Leeds, during the campaign of the present Minister of Finance (Mr. White). On November 6, a Methodist clergyman, the Rev. Frank Cochrane, minister at Phillipsville stated:

He recognized the truth of Dr. Dunn's charge against the Conservative campaigners in Leeds, 'I yield to no man in my Protestantism,' he declared, 'but I blush for the appeals made in this riding on grounds of religious prejudice against a great Canadian who has spent his life in public service, seeking to unite in true and patriotic Canadianism all creeds and classes.'

This is only one evidence of the cry and the campaign urged all over this country by my friends opposite. Now they say: we have won because the people do not want reciprocity with the United States. I am not in a position to speak for any other portion of the Dominion of Canada excepting the maritime provinces, but I am here to state that reciprocity and subjects closely allied to it are not dead so far as the maritime provinces are concerned. I do not care whether you say reciprocity with the United States in natural products or not, but my opinion, and I know I am voicing the sentiment of every gentleman here from the maritime provinces, on either side of the House, is that the admission of the natural products of the maritime provinces into the United States would have been the greatest boon which has been offered to our people in a lifetime or which can be offered to them within the next generation. The Minister